

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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FOR RLA INSKEEP

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUWAIT 300 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
ALGIERS AMMAN BAGHDAD CAIRO CASABLANCA DAMASCUS DOHA GENEVA
JIDDA KHARTOUM MANAMA MUSCAT NOUAKCHOT RABAT SANA TRIPOLI
TUNIS 19 JAN

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, XF

SUBJECT: ALO CONFERENCE MAY BE SHIFTED FROM MAURITANIA TO
EGYPT

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE EGYPTIAN SOURCE WHO WAS RECENTLY IN
CAIRO, ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION (ALO) CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR
NOUAKCHOTT IN MARCH IS LIKELY TO BE SHIFTED ELSEWHERE AND MAY
BE POSTPONED SOMEWHAT IN THE PROCESS. ALSO HQS OFFICIALS
IN CAIRO TOLD SOURCE THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT NEW HOTEL
UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NOUAKCHOTT THAT IS SUPPOSED TO HOUSE
CONFERENCE DELEGATES WILL NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME. AS A
RESULT, ALO SEC GEN HAS GONE TO MALYIHAND
THE EXTENT OF CONSTRUCTION DELAY AND TO OBTAIN MAURITANIAN
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ACQUIESCENCE IN CHANGE OF CONFERENCE VENUE. ALO OFFICIALS

EXPECT NEW SITE WILL BE EITHER CAIRO OR ALEXANDRIA. THEY
HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED EGYPTIAN MANPOWER MINISTER BALTIYA
WHO REPORTEDLY WILLING TO ARRANGE FOR EITHER SITE--PROVIDED
HE HAS MINIMUM OF TWO MONTHS' ADVANCE NOTICE TO ENSURE
SUFFICIENT HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

2. COMMENTS: ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY OF ALO
AND OCCASION FOR ARABS, ON TRIPARTITE BASIS, TO THRASH
OUT CURRENT ISSUES AND ATTEMPT TO SET POLITICAL LINE FOR
ILO CONFERENCE HELVSTHEREAFTER. AT THIS YEAR'S ALO MEETING,
MODERATE ELEMENTS WILL BE REINFORCED BY FIRST-TIME PARTICIPATION
OF DELEGATIONS FROM BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIA. SHIFT OF
CONFERENCE SITE TO EGYPT MAY ALSO STRENGTHEN HAND OF
MODERATES THROUGH ENHANCED EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE IN CORRIDORS
AND PROCEEDINGS.

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